

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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R 131601Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4878

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMCONSUL ZAGREB

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 26576

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, YU, FR

SUBJECT: PUBLISHED COMMENTS ON CANCELLATION GISCARD
TRIP TO YUGOSLAVIA

REF: (A) PARIS 26454, (B) PARIS 26486, (C) BELGRADE 5966

NOTAL, (D) BELGRADE 5968 NOTAL

1. LE MONDE WEEK-END ISSUE SEPTEMBER 12-13 OFFERS FRONT-PAGE RUN-DOWN ON CANCELLATION OF GISCARD'S YUGOSLAV VISIT WHICH MIRRORS AMBIGUITIES AND UNCLARITY INHERENT THIS AFFAIR:

(A) LE MONDE PROMINENTLY NOTES DISPARITY IN TIMING OF ANNOUNCEMENTS; I.E., PARIS ANNOUNCEMENT (REF B) APPEARED LATE FRIDAY AFTERNOON WHILE GOY ANNOUNCEMENT NOT MADE TILL BEGINNING SATURDAY AFTERNOON, BUT OFFERS NO EXPLANATION.

(B) LE MONDE ALSO TENDS TO CONFIRM QUAI IMPRESSION
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(REF A) THAT MINIC, WHILE HERE, MENTIONED EITHER HEART-

ATTACK OR SOME KIND OF SUDDEN CARDIO-VASCULAR PROBLEM, BUT THEN CITES TANJUG AS REPORTING THAT TITO HAS BEEN SUFFERING FROM LIVER PROBLEM SINCE AUGUST, WAS MOST RECENTLY EXAMINED BY HIS DOCTORS THIS CONNECTION SEPTEMBER 8, AND WAS PRESUMABLY TOLD FOR THIS REASON TO TAKE PERIOD OF REST. ELYSEE STATEMENT PUBLISHED FRIDAY CONFINES ITSELF TO SAYING THAT POSTPONEMENT DUE TO REQUEST TITO'S PHYSICIANS. ISSUE OF WHAT, IF ANYTHING, IS WRONG WITH TITO THEREFORE ALSO LEFT UNSOLVED ON PUBLIC RECORD.

(C) FURTHERMORE, LE MONDE AND OTHER PAPERS PROMINENTLY REFER TO FACT, REPORTED BELGRADE'S REF C, THAT WHILE ALL THIS WAS GOING ON TITO WAS IN FACT SEEN IN BELGRADE WITH CEAUSCESCU LOOKING FIT AND BRONZED. THIS HAS REINFORCED SPECULATION THAT TITO'S ILLNESS IN FACT MAY BE DIPLOMATIC. AMONG THE POSSIBLE REASONS, ONLY ONE FRENCH RADIO PROGRAM WE HAVE HEARD HAS DIRECTLY LINKED GISCARD TRIP CANCELLATION WITH CARLOS' PRESENCE IN YUGOSLAVIA, A CIRCUMSTANCE ALSO REFERRED TO IN UPI STORY FROM LONDON OVER WEEKEND. LE MONDE ON OTHER HAND LENT WEIGHT TO BELGRADE'S SUGGESTION (REF C) THAT LAST MINUTE DIFFERENCES OVER REFERENCE IN COMMUNIQUE TO NON-ALIGNMENT MAY HAVE BEEN THE ISSUE. HOWEVER, FONMIN GIRUINGAUD, WHEN ASKED ABOUT THIS, TOLD FRENCH PRESS THAT YUGOSLAVIA DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN COLOMBO DECISION, WHICH WAS TAKEN BY SMALL NUMBER COUNTRIES AT REQUEST OF SWAPO. WHILE LE MONDE REFERS TO "CERTAIN COOLING" IN FRANCE-YUGOSLAV RELATIONS SINCE COLOMBO, GUIRINGAUD ALSO QUOTED TO SAY THAT ALL COMMUNIQUE ISSUES HAD BEEN SETTLED, AFTER PORTION OF TEXT "ON FRENCH NON-ALIGNED RELATIONS HAD BEEN DELETED OR MODIFIED."

2. ON POSITIVE SIDE LE MONDE NOTES THAT YUGOS HAD COURTESY TO SEND MINIC AND THAT TITO HAS AND WILL CANCEL OTHER ENGAGEMENTS BECAUSE OF HIS MEDICAL PROBLEMS.

3. IN SUM, PUBLIC RECORD REMAINS QUITE CONFUSED. WE WILL REPORT SEPTTEL RESULTS OUR OFFICIAL CONTACTS IN QUAL RUSH.

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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